

a) DNA [having] comprising a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of a nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ.ID NO. 1 [of Sequence Listing: or], and

b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein the characters are selected from the group consisting of the height of the plant and the length of an internode of the plant.

2. (Amended). A gene encoding a transcription factor which is selected from [i) or ii)] the group consisting of:

i) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of an amino acid sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 2, [or] and

ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of 1) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFCKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i), and wherein the characters of a plant are selected from the group consisting of the height of the plant and the length of an internode of the plant.

~~3A~~ (Amended). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:

introducing [a plant cell with] the <sup>DNA molecule</sup> ~~gene~~ of claim 1 into a plant cell; and regenerating [a plant body from] the plant cell [having the introduced gene] into a transgenic plant.

~~4A~~ (Amended). A method according to claim <sup>3</sup> ~~4~~, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a dicotyledon.

B2 ~~5~~<sup>4</sup> (Amended). A method according to claim ~~4~~<sup>4</sup>, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a member of the Solanaceae family.

~~6~~<sup>5</sup> (Amended). A method according to claim ~~5~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a member of the Petunia genus.

Please add new claims 10-21, as follows.

B3 10. (Added). A gene comprising DNA which is selected from the group consisting of

- a) DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of a nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 1, and
- b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant in the same manner as DNA of a).

11. (Added). A gene encoding a transcription factor which is selected from the group consisting of

- i) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of an amino acid sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 2, or
- ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of i) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant in the same manner as the transcription factor of i), wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i).

D ~~9~~<sup>9</sup> (Added) A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:

introducing the <sup>DNA molecule</sup> ~~gene~~ of claim 2 into a plant cell; and

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regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

of:

13. (Added). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:  
introducing the gene of claim 10 into a plant cell; and  
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

of:

14. (Added). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:  
introducing the gene of claim 11 into a plant cell; and  
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

~~10~~ 15. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim ~~12~~ <sup>9</sup>.

16. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 13.

17. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 14.

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C2  
18. (Added). A method for altering characters of a plant, comprising steps of:  
introducing the gene of claim 1 into a plant cell; and  
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant, wherein the characters of a  
plant include one selected from the group consisting of a height of a plant and a length of an  
internode.

19. (Added). A method for altering characters of a plant comprising steps of:  
introducing the gene of claim 2 into a plant cell; and  
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant, wherein the characters of a  
plant include one selected from the group consisting of a height of a plant and a length of an  
internode.

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